



DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

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**OHMVR COMMISSION MEETING
Holtville, CA 92250**

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STAFF REPORT: Statewide Off-Highway Motor Vehicle and Over Snow Vehicle Recreation Study

STAFF: Katie Metraux, OHMVR Planning Section

SUBJECT: Information about a Statewide Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Study

Summary

The Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation (OHMVR) Division is preparing to conduct a Statewide Off-Highway Motor Vehicle (OHV) and Over Snow Vehicle (OSV) Recreation Study (Study). The statewide Study would provide updated demographic information about OHV and OSV recreationists. It would also provide associated economic contributions to OHV recreation. The Division anticipates entering into an interagency agreement with a university to conduct the Study. This staff report describes the Study, proposed timeline, and potential costs.

Discussion

A comprehensive study is needed to identify gaps in OHV and OSV recreation opportunities, determine existing user base and target audiences, and ascertain potential funding needs. Study components could include:

- Demographics to know who is currently participating in OHV and OSV recreation;
- trends in OHV and OSV types;
- visitor use patterns;
- a statewide evaluation of existing OHV and OSV recreation opportunities; and,
- the economic impacts associated with OHV recreation.

The Study would be useful for all aspects of the OHMVR Program. It would help the Department of Parks and Recreation (Department) find gaps in existing OHV and OSV recreation data; guide future acquisition and planning efforts; understand visitor needs and expectations; and help managers know what program components need further development. The information would also benefit federal agencies and local governments who may want to develop OHV and OSV opportunities on public lands within their jurisdiction.

The first comprehensive statewide study of OHV recreation was conducted by the Department in the late 1970s and utilized to develop the OHMVR Program. Other recreation studies include the Oceano Dunes State Vehicular Recreation Area (SVRA) Economic Impact Analysis Report (2010/2011); a SVRA attendance study in 2014; a winter recreation study (2013), and, the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (known as SCORP) that is updated every five years. The 2015 SCORP is available for review on the California State Parks website: www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=27894. These studies are limited in scope and do not address OHV and OSV recreation on other public and private lands.

The Study could include direct surveys (e.g., visitor intercept surveys and stakeholder interviews) and indirect surveys (e.g., mail surveys and/or online surveys) and review of other similar state and national OHV and OSV studies. In addition, it could include stakeholder interviews and coordination with federal and state agencies to collect data.

Potential Costs

The Department is exploring hiring an academic institution to design and implement the study, analyze data, and produce reports. Depending on the project deliverables, a study of this size could cost \$350,000 and up.

Proposed Timeline

Phase 1: Study Design

This phase could take up to one-and-a-half years. It includes contracting and coordination with an academic institution or private research group.

Phase 2: Conduct Data Collection

This phase could take up to two years depending on study scope and data collection methods.

Phase 3: Analyze Data and Produce Reports

This phase could take up to six months depending on the amount of data and project deliverables.

Total estimated time is up to four years.

Next Steps

The Division has sent the Study proposal to seven universities throughout California. The Division anticipates holding meetings with interested universities and entering into an interagency agreement in spring 2018.

Commission Action

For information only.

Attachments

None